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CIA 1.01 Helms, Richard  
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(orig under O'Leary)

# Colleagues Pay His Fine, Jail Term Is Suspended

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More than 400 former CIA officers gave Richard Helms a standing ovation; then turned wastebaskets into collection bins and showered checks and money into them, after his sentencing yesterday to help pay his fine.

The emotional and spontaneous incident took place at Kenwood County Club at a long-scheduled luncheon of CIRA, an association made up exclusively of CIA retirees.

Members of the organization said Helms appeared at the country club after U.S. District Judge Barrington D. Parker had sentenced him to pay a \$2,000 fine and gave him a suspended jail sentence for failing to tell a Senate committee the full truth about agency activities in Chile.

"It wasn't prearranged," a CIRA member said. "It was a regular luncheon, and Sen. Barry Goldwater was supposed to be the speaker. The lunch meeting and the sentencing were pure coincidence.

"But when Helms walked in all 400 of us stood up and he got an ovation that lasted several minutes. Helms didn't speak at all but someone got

the microphone and said 'What can we do to help?'

THE 400 EX-CIA AGENTS decided to act individually instead of in the name of CIRA. What they did was pile two wastebaskets on top of a piano, and the members showered cash and checks in to help the former CIA director pay his fine.

The baskets were filling up fast when I left," said one member. "I think it is safe to say that there was more than enough contributed to pay the \$2,000 fine."

Other CIA and ex-agency employees said they had been contributing for weeks to a defense fund to help defray Helms' legal costs on the assumption that Edward Bennett Williams does not come cheap. But they emphasized that today's burst of contributions at the country club was spontaneous and aimed only at meeting the fine the former director received.

Meanwhile Helms told reporters after the sentencing that he hoped Congress and the executive branch will do something to prevent any of his successors at CIA from encountering the dilemma he faced about which of the oaths he should keep when it comes to a conflict between CIA secrecy and congressional inquiry.

HELMS EXPRESSED this wish in a statement he read to reporters outside U.S. District Court here yesterday after Parker gave him a stern lecture and the fine. Parker suspended a two-year prison sentence after keeping Helms on tenterhooks about whether the court would go along with the Department of Justice recommendation that Helms not be sent to jail.